

**Abstract ID :** 374

**Title :** Dugong Conservation Movement in Japan

**Category :** Conservation

**Student :**

**Preferred Format :** Poster Presentation

**Abstract :** Save the Dugong Campaign Center (SDCC) has founded in March 2001, in the process of implementation that IUCN recommend on the conservation of Dugong, Okinawa Woodpecker and Okinawa Rail in October 2000. But Japanese Government has ignored the IUCN recommendation and decided to construct the US Military Airbase at offshore of Henoko district in Nago, Okinawa last July.

Okinawa is the most-north habitat of the dugong around the world. It is estimated only 30~50 dugongs are alive in this area, and endangered. SDCC has worked for collecting signature (140000 signatures now) and organizing other campaigns and negotiations between Japanese governments. We invited NGOs from USA in April 2001, also Dr. Marsh who is a researcher of Dugong in Australia in June 2001. We have attended to 14th biennial Conference of Biology Marine Mammals in November 2001, and organizing the International Symposium on the UNEP report of Action Plan for conservation of Dugong in September 2002.

The public opinion for dugong conservation in and out of Japan forces Ministry of Environment to research this area (2002-04). But boring research will soon start because it is a national project ignoring the environment impact assessment. As a counter project, NAC-J has started the seagrass research and proved that the pre-research is slipshod. It urged the government to research again on seagrass and coral.

SDCC support this seagrass research and rise people of Nago to pay attention to Environmental Impact Assessment. Beside that, we have organized a series seminar about assessment and eco-tour "Play with Dugong's Sea" at the place that relocation airbase will be constructing. Now main action of SDCC is this citizen's assessment and information disclosure.